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the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue did in his private capacity cannot be a matter for discussion before this House. I want to know whether we can discuss on the floor of the House what an Hon. Minister did in his private capacity.''

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, the hon. Member is correct. We cannot discuss here what the Hon. Minister did in his private capacity.''

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir . . .'' (Interruption.)

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There can be no duel between hon. Members here and that too between two hon. Members belonging to the same party. (Laughter.)

That apart, Sir, even when an Hon. Minister visits any place in his private capacity, he is entitled to a certain amount of protection because of the status he occupies as a Minister. According to the rules and regulations in force, certain security measures are taken.''

Cost of maintenance of the Government General Hospital, Madras.

* 185 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the annual cost of maintaining the Government General Hospital, the annual establishment charges, the annual cost of medicine and the number of patients treated in the year 1952?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In the financial year 1952–53 the total cost of maintaining the Government General Hospital was Rs. 3,40,631. The establishment charges in that year were Rs. 10,39,208 and the cost of medicines Rs. 10,97,984. The total number of patients treated during 1952 was 36,870 in-patients and 442,784 out-patients.''

SRI A. RATNAM :—" கவர்ன்மெண்ட் ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளில் வியாதியஸ்தர்களை பராமரிப்பவர்கள் கீழ்த்தர சிப்பந்திகள் ஆவார்கள். பத்து லட்சம் ரூபாய் மருந்தைக் கொடுத்து வியாதியஸ்தர்களை கீழ்த்தர சிப்பந்திகளைக் கொண்டு பராமரிக்கச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு அதற்குத் தக்கபடி உடை, சம்பளம், அலவன்ஸ், முதலியவைகளை கொடுக்காததால் அவர்களினால் வியாதியஸ்தர்கள் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அறிவாரா ? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not know what the basis is for the observations of the hon. Member.''

Opening of a bus route from Madras to Ponneri.

* 186 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether any representation was made last year by a Member of the Legislative Assembly urging the Government to ply buses between Madras and Ponneri *via* Minjur and Tiruvottiyur; and, if so, the action taken thereon?

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The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A representation was received from Sri O. Chengam Pillai, a member of this House, in November 1953, requesting the opening of a bus route from Madras to Ponneri via Minjur and Tiruvottiyur. The matter is under the active consideration of the concerned authorities."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" மந்திரி அவர்கள் பேசும்போது ' பஸ் ரூட்டுக்கு அது லாயக்காக இருக்கிறது, கவனிக்கப்படும் ' என்று சொல்லுகிறார். ஆனால் தண்டையார்ப்பேட்டையிலிருந்து என்னூர் வரையிலுள்ள திருவொற்றியூர் ரோடு 20 வருஷமாக ரிப்பேர் அற்று கட்டை வண்டி செல்வதற்குக்கூட லாயக்கற்றதாக இருக்கிறது. அந்த இடத்தில் பஸ் எப்படிச் செல்லும் என்பதை மந்திரி அறிவிக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am afraid I have to contradict the hon. Member's first statement to the effect that I had said ' *லாயக்காயிருக்கிறது.*' I never said so. With regard to the second complaint about the condition of the road, the hon. Member will be well advised to put the question to my Colleague."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister for Public Works, I mean."

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir."

Disparity in the salaries and allowances of officers of Union Government and of those of the State Government.

* 187 *Q.*—Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity in the salaries and emoluments drawn by officers of the Government of India employed in Madras State and the corresponding officers of this State?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The question was examined more than once in the past but had to be given up as it was found that any revision of the scales of pay and allowances of the Government servants of this State to bring them on a par with those sanctioned by the Government of India was quite beyond the financial resources of this State."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is not this Government contributing to widen the disparity by making preferential allotment of houses in Government Estate to officers of the Government of India overlooking the claims and subordinating the interests of Madras Government officers? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think, Sri Balakrishnan does not know perhaps to which question he is now referring. This question is concerned with the difference in the scales of pay of this Government's servants and Central Government servants and the hon. Member wants to know what steps this Government are going to take to bring the

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scales of pay of their employees on a par with those of the Central Government servants. But curiously enough the hon. Member now puts a supplementary question about allotment of houses. I want to know how this present supplementary question is related to the main question.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' Will the hon. Member please explain? ''

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—'' It has a meaning and it has a connection with my main question, Sir. Is not this Government contributing to further disparity by making preferential allotment of houses in Government Estate to servants of the Government of India over the claims and subordinating the interests of the servants of the Government of Madras who draw a lesser pay than the Central Government servants? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' I may inform the hon. Member that no such preference is being shown to Government of India servants.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' The Hon. Finance Minister stated that the finances of this State did not permit the raising of salaries of Government servants of this State to the level of Central Government servants. May I request him if the salaries of all cannot be raised, whether the salaries of the last grade servants at least will be raised to the level of the Central scale? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' We have given certain concessions to the last grade servants. We are looking after their interests quite effectively.''

DR. K. B. MENON :—'' May I know whether the Hon. the Finance Minister is aware of the fact that such gross disparity in salaries of Government servants living in the same place doing more or less the same kind of work leads to discontent and consequently to inefficiency? Will the Government, therefore, take steps to bring the salaries of the State officials at least as near as possible to the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' There is always the limitation of finance. However much our sympathy may lie, we have to operate within the resources available to us. Unfortunately, in the present financial position in which we are placed now, it is not possible to raise the salaries of Government servants. Moreover, recently, I think it was in 1947, the salaries of Government servants of this State were increased and that had cost us to the tune of 2½ crores of rupees.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—'' கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்கள் 10-50 a.m.
பதிலளிக்கையில் கடைசி கீழ்த்தர சிப்பந்திகளுக்கு சில சலுகைகள் கொடுத்திருப்பதாகவும் அதன் மூலம் அவர்களுடைய உரிமைகளை திறமையாக பாதுகாப்பதாகவும் கூறினார். அப்படி சலுகைகள் காட்டுவது என்று சொன்னால் எற்கனவே அவர்களுக்கு சம்பளம் ரொம்ப நியாயமாகக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்றும் அதற்கு மேற்பட்டு சலுகைகள் கொடுத்திருப்பதாகவும் கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்கள் கருதுகிறார்களா ? ''